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AMEMBASSIES FOR PAS, POL, USAID

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TAGS: [KMDR ES KPAO MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: MILLENNIUM ACCOUNT / ICANN

[1. Millennium Challenge Account](#)

"Namibia and El Salvador," op-ed in moderate "La Prensa Grfica" (circ. 100,000) on Sunday, November 13, by columnist and National Development Commission member Sandra de Barraza:

"Namibia is now getting national attention because we will be competing against this country for US\$450 million of Millennium Challenge Account funds.

"Both countries are far behind nations with a greater per capita income; this is evidenced in annual growth rates of less than two percent in both countries.

"With the Millennium Account, the northern part of our country has an opportunity for integral development. [El Salvador] also has the opportunity to diminish poverty., to develop management styles based on effectiveness, to fortify international alliances for development, to strengthen democracy, and to maintain an indefatigable fight against corruption. This is a winning situation for all."

[2. ICANN](#)

"Who governs information," op-ed in moderate daily La Prensa Grfica (circ. 100,000) on Sunday, November 13, by Margarita Funes, editor of the paper's on-line edition:

"The European Union was the first to withdraw its support for the Internet Commission on Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), requesting that administrative control be yielded to other countries. This week, at the World Summit on the Information Society, countries like Brazil, China, Cuba and Iran will request the creation of an international entity to govern the Internet. Others will request greater UN participation in ICANN.

"The United States is against giving up its administration of the World-Wide Web. The U.S. arguments are, first, that since it was created, the system has worked efficiently. Second, they are appealing to fears that countries with little freedom of expression--like Cuba or China--could meddle with it in a way that would make [the Internet] lose the essence of why it was created: to be free."

"The owner of the Internet," op-ed by Mexican journalist, columnist, and Univision personality Jorge Ramos in the Sunday, November 13 edition of moderate La Prensa Grfica (circ. 100,000):

"If I ask 'Who owns the Internet?', the most probable answer is 'We all do.' Or, perhaps, 'No one does.' Both answers are wrong. The U.S. owns the Internet, although it lends it to the rest of the world, and that is precisely what many countries want to change.

"The U.S. had considered ceding control over the Internet to an international entity in 2006. Nevertheless, it just changed its mind.

"Because the Internet is fundamental to the U.S. economy and society, President Bush's government does not want to risk it falling into anti-American or unfriendly hands.

"If the Internet, for example, were controlled by an international entity, dictatorships like those in Cuba, China and Saudi Arabia, or authoritarian governments like the one in Venezuela, could censor information that questioned their regimes. Or worse, they could request the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those who criticize them through the Internet and then look for them and jail them under any excuse.

"It is enough to say that the Internet was a U.S. idea, administered for more than four decades by Americans, with U.S. technology. The United States is not about to give away its most important invention since television."

BARCLAY